

Moonlighting's

The once endangered show, Moonlighting, is back on Channel Nine for what looks like another rave season. MEREDITH CHAPLIN has good news for diehard fans in this review of the episode coming up.

stylish return

Moonlighting fans rejoice — the show has not lapsed into an unbearable recess but returns to the screen this week fresher than a Hollywood casting director.

At 8.30pm on Monday the dubious detectives Maddie Hayes (Cybill Shepherd) and David Addison (Bruce Willis) are in form in a top-quality episode which will leave cult followers mesmerised.

This one, entitled Sleep Talkin' Guy, kicks off with a blend of champagne and door-slamming as the designer dicks battle over a pay rise David wants and Maddie is reluctant to grant.

Her tentative assertion that David has never solved a case sets off a rollicking chase through the gags and emotional ping-pong this show handles so brilliantly.

While Maddie calmly oversees Blue Moon — an immensely busy establishment for a detective agency which seems to handle very few cases — David sets professional sail to prove himself.

Enter a dazzling guest artist (Lisa Blount) who adds the customary dash of aerobically-tuned body movement and lavish looks essential to every episode.

This time she is a sweet-hearted hooker with access to prime-crime information who provides David with the chance for glory he needs.

For the rest of the hour there is plenty of action between loaded glances and flashes of suggestive behavior, tears and tenderness.

For my money, Moonlighting is a brilliant show — with its strength in the fact that it is truly different and not the same old stuff it appears to be at first sight.

Exactly what Moonlighting is different from, is the key to the puzzle. Certainly, it is different from Superman, in that Bruce Willis does not fly — but it is similar to superhero stuff with its unbelievable story lines thoroughly acceptable in the spirit of good entertainment.

It is also different from Abbott and Costello and the Three Stooges, as this show is in color and the slapstick is not quite as advanced. But Willis and Shepherd are no slouches at exchanging fast gags.

And while it unashamedly borrows heavily from Humphrey Bogart — it differs from Bogey's best in its stated intention to spoof the entire matter of crime detection (one line in this episode asserts the public is sick of detective shows).

The comparisons with golden goodies

**Top quality
is sure to
please fans**



Cybill Shepherd . . . back in top form.



Stars of Moonlighting . . . Bruce Willis, Cybill Shepherd and Allyce Beasley.

are endless: it is as if creator Glenn Gordon Caron took Charles' Angels, The Love Boat plus all of the above and rolled them into an encapsulation of drama, comedy and soap as we know it.

He chose well with his leads — Shepherd is not only beautiful but an immensely versatile and distinguished actor.

Willis is plain refreshing. His style has

more to do with real life and real acting than have a whole queue of blow-dried toy boys from television row.

Supported by the intentionally gawky but extremely funny Allyce Beasley as incompetent receptionist Ms Dipesto, Shepherd and Willis can moonlight for as long as they like — or as long as they, the script-writers and crew, can keep it up.